

## Section Four

# Illustrate who supports the nomination and plan of action.

Broad-based community support is both apparent and gratifying, by the numbers of counties, cities, private organization and citizens who have joined in this effort to designate the St. Johns River as an American Heritage River. That support includes Florida's Governor, Lawton Chiles. The support is bi-partisan and widespread -- beginning at the headwaters of the St. Johns southwest of Cape Canaveral through its 310 mile journey to the Atlantic Ocean to the mouth of the river in Jacksonville, the largest city in area in the contiguous United States, of which the St. Johns flows through splitting the downtown in half.

The prime sponsor of this application is Mayor John Delaney, of the City of Jacksonville. Jacksonville's City Council voted 16-1 in support of this application and local support for the designation is apparent. Beyond Jacksonville, which enjoys the unique feature of having a consolidated city/county government, numerous other counties and cities along its path are urging that the St. Johns be designated as an American Heritage River.

From the counties of Brevard and Indian River at its headwaters, through Volusia County (Daytona Beach is the county seat) to St. Johns County (St. Augustine is the county seat) to the consolidated Jacksonville/Duval County, commissions have heartily endorsed this proposed designation.

In addition to the more than twenty communities who endorse and strongly support this effort including Cape Canaveral, Crescent City, Holly Hill, Melbourne, Palatka, Indian Harbour Beach, Malabar, Satellite Beach, Palm Bay, Indialantic, Hilliard, Fellsmere and others, co-sponsors of this application include St. Johns County, the Cities of Apopka, Atlantic Beach, Jacksonville Beach, Daytona Beach Shores, Rockledge, and the Towns of Callahan, Melbourne Village and Pierson.

There have been individuals who have expressed some concern or opposition to the program, but the opposition is very narrow and represents a small minority of the people who consider this initiative so important.

In addition to scores of community groups, such as the Florida Chapter of the League of Women Voters and the owner of the NFL's Jacksonville Jaguars, hundreds of citizens are rallying behind the proposed designation of the St. Johns River.

According to guidelines, we offer the written endorsement of this initiative as part of our attachment to the official application, so you can see how cities, counties and citizens have come together to support the St. Johns River as an American Heritage River.